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# Farm Broadcasters Letter



GOVERNMENT RECORDS

Letter No. 2315

June 4, 1987

## FROM OTTAWA TRADE MEETINGS

"The chaotic state of world agriculture trade means that we need to go beyond simply recognizing the problems facing the world's farmers. We must...bring about fundamental and comprehensive reform of agricultural policies and programs around the world." That's the joint statement issued at the Ottawa, Canada, trade meeting of U.S. Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng, Canadian Minister of Agriculture John Wise, and the Minister of State responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, Charles Mayer. They also endorsed the need for a consensus on the need for agricultural reform during the forthcoming Venice Summit Meeting.

## 1986 DISASTER PAYMENTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced disaster payments on previously approved applications for 1986 crop losses will be increased from 73.9 to 100 percent. Farmers must apply for benefits under the new provisions by June 26. For details, contact your county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

## PROVISION 0/92 AND DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

According to Acting Under Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Goldberg, some producers in the 1987 acreage reduction program may be eligible for deficiency payments on 92 percent of their enrolled acreage, although none of it is planted to wheat or other program crops. This provision, known as 0/92, is available to all eligible winter wheat producers; producers of other types of wheat who were prevented from planting their 1987 wheat crop because of a 1986 natural disaster; and all producers who operate farms with program crop acreage bases subject to flooding on 50 percent of such crop's permitted acreage. For eligibility, enroll no later than July 15 at local office of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

## 1987/88 EXPORT WHEAT FORECAST

The initial wheat export forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 1987/88 anticipates a 20 percent rise in wheat exports, to 33 million 300 thousand tons...that's up from 27 million 900 thousand tons for 1986/87. The major reasons for the increase are: World trade is expected to pick up due to an increase in the USSR's and China's wheat import demand...and the more prominent role of the Export Enhancement Program in promoting U.S. wheat exports. These factors will allow the U.S. to hold and regain markets in North Africa, China and the USSR.

CANADIAN AND  
AUSTRALIAN WHEAT  
PRODUCTION DOWN

There's a projected decline in 1987 wheat production for two of the U.S. major competitors, Canada and Australia. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, their collective output is predicted to fall by 17 percent. However, this is tempered by the continuing expansion of the European Community's production of wheat, which is forecast to approach the record levels of 1984. However, pressured by a weaker dollar and the widening gulf between the artificially high EC internal producer prices and world prices, the EC's agricultural budget has not only been raised by 5 percent to around \$26 billion for 1987, but is also expected to experience a shortfall of around \$6 billion. In addition, the growing fiscal pressures have created heated debate within the EC over the direction of agricultural policy.

CANADA'S EXPORT  
PROGRAM

After an initial delay following the Thunder Bay Port strike, the pace of Canadian wheat exports has accelerated rapidly, reaching 13 million 500 thousand tons from July 1986 to March 1987. That's up 700,000 tons in comparison to the same period last year. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the leading destinations through March were: The USSR, 4 million 300 thousand tons; and China, 1 million 900 thousand tons. The current forecast projects a 20 percent increase in Canada's wheat exports over the previous year to 20 million tons in 1986/87.

BRAZIL WHEAT  
SUBSIDIES DOWN

The Brazilian government imposed a new minimum producer price for the 1987 wheat crop at \$200 per ton, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The price will be adjusted monthly for inflation. This means Brazilian wheat farmers will be working with a minimum producer price significantly below last year's initial level of \$240 per ton.

CANADIAN WHEAT  
TO THE U.S.

Canadian exports of wheat are flowing into the U.S. at a record pace, reaching 313,000 tons in the period June 1986 through March 1987, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In contrast, last year--1985/86, May through June--the U.S. imported a total of 319,000 tons of Canadian wheat. This is in spite of recent efforts by the Canadian Wheat Board to limit shipments of durum to the U.S.

AUSTRALIA'S  
WHEAT EXPORTS

Although the 1987/88 Australian forecast indicates a 1 million 500 thousand ton decline in wheat exports to 13 million 500 thousand, the vagaries of the weather will, as always, be a major factor in determining the level of exportable supplies. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the initial projections show a 5 percent drop in wheat plantings to 10 million 700 thousand hectares (nearly 28 million acres) and a 13 percent fall in 1987 production to 14 million 500 tons. Moisture levels in the next few months could alter the picture markedly. Should Australian wheat exports decline in the future, U.S. wheat could face less competition in such markets as the USSR, and China, where in recent years Australian wheat has made inroads.

USSR BUYS  
EEP WHEAT

On April 30, 1987, the U.S. offered the USSR an Export Enhancement Program for 4 million tons of wheat through Sept. 1987. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the USSR purchased the full amount by May 27, taking all Hard Red Winter wheat for shipment during June, July and August 1987.

FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

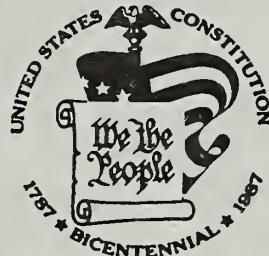
PESTICIDES IN FOODS - I...The National Academy of Sciences was recently called upon by the Environmental Protection Agency to study the regulating of pesticides in foods. Ann Lindsay with the Environmental Protection Agency takes a look at recommendations made from this study. Vic Powell interviews. (206)

PESTICIDES IN FOODS - II...A National Academy of Sciences report urges the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a consistent standard toward measuring risks associated with using chemicals in food production. Ann Lindsay with EPA examines the report's recommendations. Vic Powell interviews. (207)

CURRENT EXPORT OUTLOOK...Although U.S. export volume and value is forecast to be significantly higher than last year, the growth is not widespread across many commodities. USDA economist Steve MacDonald focuses on the current situation and outlook for exports. Vic Powell interviews. (208)

COTTON AND WOOL OUTLOOK...A continued consumer preference for cotton fiber will help boost this season's consumption to over 7 million bales. USDA economist Bob Skinner talks about these and other factors contributing to the current outlook for cotton and wool. Vic Powell interviews. (209)

SOIL EROSION...Fred Mott with USDA's Soil Conservation Service describes how soil erosion can create devastating problems for the nation's farmers and takes a look at management tips farmers can use to prevent erosion of land. Vic Powell interviews. (210)



FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1566...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) In this edition of Agriculture USA, Gary Crawford explores the world of the gypsy moth. Those creatures are once again munching trees coast to coast. This year many local governments are mounting efforts to stop the moths.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1555...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Smaller cattle inventory; More farm bankruptcies; Conservation Reserve update.

CONSUMER TIME #1047...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Preventing gingivitis; Window treatments; Survival skills for latchkey kids; Planning your garden; Selecting seeds for your garden.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, June 9, Weekly crop and weather, World agricultural supply demand crop production; Wed, June 10, Western Hemisphere, vegetables; Mon, June 15, Milk production, Cattle on feed. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

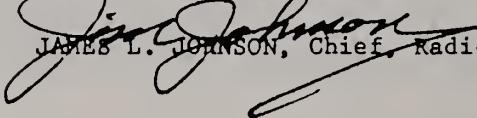
OFF MIKE

The SE Regional NAFB meeting in Gatlinburg, TN, was judged a success by those who attended, which added up to 54, according to chairman (and regional VP) Dan Gordon. Highlights included a tram ride up a mountain and a Bavarian dinner and entertainment, a visit to the Apple Barn, probably one of the better examples of diversification and entrepreneurship, and the Annual Jim Graham Open Barnyard Classic Amateur Golf Tournament (or whatever the full title is). Jim Mills (NAFB Sales/Marketing Director) won the coveted golf trophy but is still shaking his head about the shot he skipped across the pond guarding the 18th hole to salvage par ... Also at Gatlinburg, Cindy Zimmerman (Independent Florida Agrinet, Ocala, FL) was elected the new SE regional NAFB vice president ... Marla Behrends (WKAN, Kankakee, IL), NE regional NAFB vice president, reports about 100 attended the regional meeting in Kankakee. Highlights there a visit to a gladiola farm, a cactus ranch and a hay

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ride. And it seems Ed Slusarczyk (WTLB/Ag Radio Net, Utica, NY) walked away with the majority of door prizes. Incidentally, Marla has a new phone number (815-935-9555). It's all part of a move to new station facilities, and to quote Marla, "Everything's total confusion, but the new place is great with skylights and everything" ... Speaking of phone numbers, we goofed (how I love that editorial "we"). Last week we said Orion Samuelson (WGN, Chicago) had a new phone number. Wrong! It's still the same as the one in the NAFB directory, although Lottie in Orion's office says 312-222-5090 is even better for everyone, including Max Armstrong. (Incidentally, if your dial the number we gave last week, you'll get the Chicago Tribune. When "we" goof, "we" don't mess around) ... Bob Myers (WNCT, Greenville, NC) had heart by-pass surgery and is probably home by now doing fine.

  
 JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division